

Jean L. Watson



*The Water-Cress
Boy or Johnnie
Moreland*

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REDMERE

"Oh! the joy
Of young ideas painted on the mind,
In the warm glowing colours fancy spreads
On objects not yet known, when all is new,
And all is lovely."—Hannah More.

The little town of Redmere lay slumbering under a July sun. The trees were decked in their green, and gooseberries and currants tinted the gardens with amber and crimson. The roses were in full flower, and the streets were dusty under a blue sky; but the meadows were cool and fresh, and white with the summer snow of daisies. Redmere could boast of its old ivy-covered church, with its rector's house next to the squire's, only separated from it by the great beech hedge. It had its old inn, too, with the horse-block in the yard, where the idle lads of the town gathered in to chat with the stable-boys, or the men lounged while they smoked their pipes. The inn was called the Boar's Head, leading men's minds back to the days when the cultivated land was a forest, and kings loved to chase the boar amidst its wilderness of oaks and beeches. The Boar's Head inn was